

# A Ruffle Overview Extravaganza

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<http://www.burdastyle.com/techniques/a-ruffle-overview-extravaganza>

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Today, Iâ€™m going to show you many many types of ruffles. Ruffle variety is nearly endless, and, as a design element, they can say anything from â€œsweet and funâ€ to â€œclassic and strong.â€ Being armed with a vast repertoire of ruffle variations allows you creative freedom to always choose the perfect one for any garment. Your ruffle choice may depend on how much flow/fullness/buoyancy/discretion you want, or how much fabric and/or time you have. Keep the ratio of gathering in mind when experimenting with ruffles; this will help you cut the right lengths for the desired fullness when making your final pieces. Iâ€™m also going to show different ways to finish the edges of your ruffles.

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## Step 1



Weâ€™ll start with ruffles cut on the straight grain. These ruffles will have moderate fullness. For this first ruffle, we cut a strip 3â€ high and 16â€ long, on the grainline. Turn and press both sides at  $\frac{1}{2}$ â€, and finish with a [zig-zag baby hem](http://www.burdastyle.com/howtos/show/1374).

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## Step 2



Now, put a row of basting stitches  $\frac{1}{2}$  from an edge, and another row of basting stitches  $\frac{1}{2}$  from the first. Pull the bobbin threads to gather. Our gathering ratio is about 2:1.

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## Step 3



Pin your ruffle in place, and give a stay stitch between the two basting stitches. Remove the basting stitches.  
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## Step 4



Now, Iâ€™m showing you a different way to finish the gathered edge of the same type of ruffle. Zig-zag baby hem the loose end, give two parallel basting stitches, gather, and pin in place to the garment, right sides facing, with the loose end of the ruffle facing AWAY from where you want it to fall (so if the ruffle is supposed to go towards the floor, itâ€™s going towards the sky at this point).

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## Step 5



Sew a stay-stitch between the two basting rows; remove the basting stitches, turn the ruffle to its proper direction, and give a little steam with the iron to keep it in place.

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## Step 6



If your ruffle needs to have more structure and stay-put power, you can top-stitch the gathered end in place. In this example, I turned-and-ironed the top edge, gave two rows of basting stitches, gathered, pinned in place, and top-stitched over my basting stitches.

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## Step 7



Here's a cutie: cut a strip (ours was 2" to start), baby hem both edges, give parallel basting stitches, gather, pin in place, top/stay stitch down the center, remove basting stitches.

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## Step 8



The next method requires some handwork, and is most commonly used on children's clothes, heirloom pieces, and traditional folk costumes. It gives a decorative edge on the ruffled side. To begin, baby hem the loosed edge, turn and press the gathered edge. Using large hand-basting stitches, give a zig-zag stitch about  $\frac{3}{8}$  wide across the strip.

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## Step 9



When using light fabrics (like chiffon) you can finish the edges by turning the strip in half long ways, so the loosed end is actually a fold.

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## Step 10



You can also finish the edges by playing with all those fancy stitches on your machine. Carefully trim, following the shapes.

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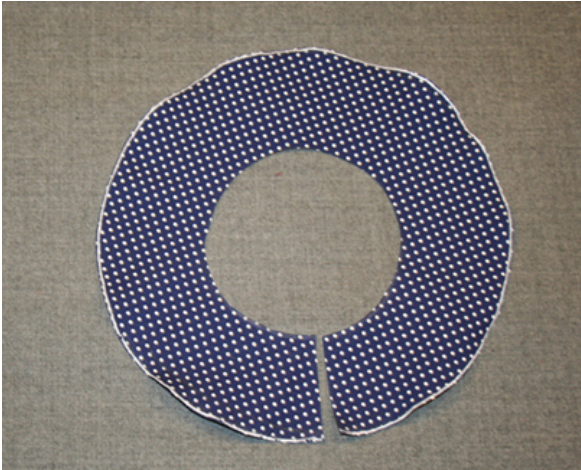
## Step 11



The preceding ruffles were all cut on the straight grain. This one is cut on the bias. See the difference? You can use any of the finishing/gathering methods shown above on a bias ruffle for the same effect with more extravagance, fullness, and flow.

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## Step 12



Circle ruffles are my favorite, for some reason. I think theyâre fun and fancy. And you donât have to do any gathering; itâs all in the geometry. Draw two concentric circles. The inside circle will be the top edge/length of your ruffle. You can use fancy geometry to figure out this length, or you can sew many circles together/cut a full circle apart to get the desired length. Cut out your circles, as shown. Baby hem the outer edge.

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### Step 13



Sew the top edge in place, finishing as you wish. No gathering required: the circle automatically creates the waves. Here, we show tiered ruffles.

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